

- 18 -

C L A I M S

1. Tool for excavating an object, the tool comprising:
 - a jetting system arranged to impinge the object to be excavated with a jetted stream of a drilling fluid mixed with abrasive particles, the jetting system being
5 provided with at least a mixing chamber with a drilling fluid inlet, a second inlet for abrasive particles, and an outlet nozzle for releasing the drilling fluid mixed with the abrasive particles;
 - a recirculation system arranged to recirculate at
10 least some of the abrasive particles, from a return stream of the fluid mixed with the abrasive particles downstream impingement of the jet with the object back to the jetting system, whereby the abrasive particles comprise a magnetic material, which recirculation system
15 comprises a separator magnet for separating the abrasive particles from said return stream and for transporting the particles to the second inlet;
 - a piece of magnetic material that is provided in or in the vicinity of the mixing chamber such as to draw a
20 part of the magnetic field generated by the separator magnet into the mixing chamber.
2. The tool of claim 1, wherein said part of the magnetic field in the mixing chamber is directed
essentially transverse to a drilling fluid flow path
25 between the drilling fluid inlet and the outlet nozzle.
3. The tool of claim 1 or 2, wherein the piece of magnetic material is located on the side of the mixing chamber opposite from the second inlet.
4. The tool of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the
30 recirculation system comprises a support surface to guide the abrasive particles towards the second inlet, and

- 19 -

whereby a shield is provided at a distance from the support surface leaving a gap between the shield and the support surface thereby forming a path from the return stream to the second inlet along the support surface.

5 5. The tool of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the separator magnet of the recirculation system is part of a transport device for transporting the abrasive particles in a selected direction towards the second inlet, which transport device further comprises:

10 - a support member having a support surface for supporting the abrasive particles, the support surface extending in the selected direction, whereby the separator magnet is arranged relative to the support surface such as to generate a magnetic field for
15 retaining the particles on the support surface whereby, the magnetic field on the support surface is arranged to have a high-field band, a low-field band, and a magnetic field gradient in a gradient zone between said high- and low-field bands whereby the magnetic field strength in
20 the high-field band is higher than that in the low-field band;
- means for advancing the high- and low-field bands relative to the support surface in a direction having a component in the direction of the magnetic field gradient
25 on the support surface, whereby the high-field band is followed by the low-field band.

6. The tool of claim 5, whereby along said high-field band at least a first magnetic pole and a second magnetic pole of opposite polarity are arranged such that a first
30 magnetic path on the support surface from the first magnetic pole to the second magnetic pole is shorter than a second magnetic path on the support surface crossing the gradient zone from the first magnetic pole to any other nearest magnetic pole of opposite polarity.

- 20 -

7. The tool of claim 5 or 6, wherein the gradient zone is helically arranged around the separator magnet.